

declarative position as does the demonstration, or want of demonstration of the tubercle bacilli to a tuberculous process. The serum from a syphilitic may at any time in the course of the disease give a negative reaction. On the other hand, there can never be an accidental positive reaction with the serum of a normal individual.

Positive findings have been reported in some cases apparently non-syphilitic. With the exception of leprosy, I think that we have grounds for the assumption of existant distinct pathological entities, or that a deviation of technic was indulged in. In only one instance have I seen the report embrace the complete protocol of the reaction:

A vital and frequent error committed by the serologist is in reporting borderline reactions. Here the personal equation becomes a strong factor and the reader confused by a questionable or tardy hemolysis. These reactions can never be justly interpreted without a complete knowledge of the case in question. The only safeguard to the serologist is to submit a description of such reaction and withhold any opinion unless properly consulted. Interpretations of reactions cover a considerable range. Citran's + and — designations are not sufficiently delicate and should be discarded. The clinician ought to be familiar with the principle and procedure of the reaction. A complete description of the behavior of a given serum as is demonstrated in the reaction should convey a far more intelligent idea than the mere report of positive or negative findings. The deductions and interpretations should rest solely with the clinician, unless the history, clinical aspect and previous treatment be reported to the serologist. The source of error begins with the taking of the blood. When the clinician undertakes this he shares the onus of responsibility with the laboratorian.

The clinician has the freedom of observing the methods of his laboratorian. By devoting a little time to the study of hemolysis and the phenomenon of complement fixation, and noting the methods of procedure, he will do more to further his knowledge of this interesting reaction and be in position to more comprehensively correlate laboratory reports with his clinical findings. He will also be in better position to judge the fitness of his serologist.

E. A. V.

EDITORIAL POLICY NOT ENDORSED.

The editorial note in this issue of the JOURNAL entitled "New State Insane Asylum" is, in my judgment, unfair to the many members of the legislature who worked hard and conscientiously to prevent the passage of bad medical legislation and who worked for high standards, and is published in spite of my protest.

GEORGE E. TUCKER,
Chairman Committee on Public Policy
and Legislation.

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